

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 15-27 are pending. Applicants propose amendment of claim 1 to incorporate features of claims 13 and 14. Entry of the amendment after final rejection is earnestly solicited.

It is respectfully submitted that the proposed amendment overcomes the following rejections: Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 15, 16, 23, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. in view of Bovaird et al.; claims 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. and further view of Corder; claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. in further view of Corder and Magnenate et al.; claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. in further view of Nguyen et al.; claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. in further view of Magnenat et al.; and claims 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. in further view of Barnard. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 14 (now incorporated into claim 1 by the present amendment) were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burchard et al. as modified in further view of Gonzalez. Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is earnestly solicited.

Burchard et al. shows a water-purifying flow path which penetrates a filter from the outer circumference side of a filter which flows into the central part. A raw water flow path is formed through the central part of the filter. However, since a flow path switching valve and delivery flow switching valve are formed as one, there would be no room to attach a purification material or a disinfectant in a flow path between a flow path switching valve and a delivery flow switching valve, in contrast to the presently claimed invention.

Bovaird et al. provides a delivery port for raw water and for purified water formed independently.

Gonzalez is cited in the rejection for its disclosure of a germicidal ceramic. Gonzalez provides for an inner ceramic filter 40. Thus, the ceramic filter is incorporated into a flow path from the water quality purification material to a delivery flow switching valve. However, such differs from the claimed invention which provides for the germicidal ceramic and/or the sintered magnetic body in a flow path from a flow path switching valve to a delivery flow switching valve.

For the above reasons, the combination of references would not result in the presently claimed invention. Furthermore, the combination of references would not have rendered the presently claimed invention obvious.

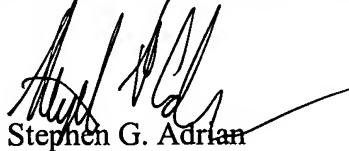
For at least the foregoing reasons, the presently claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Amendment After Final Rejection
Application No. 10/019,297
Attorney Docket No. 011700

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen G. Adrian', is written over the printed name.

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